Listing of All Claims Including Current Amendments

1. (currently amended) A method for displaying an endoscopic image, comprising:

   receiving an endoscopic image of a viewed surface;

   providing a virtual surface with said endoscopic image mapped onto said virtual

surface, wherein the shape of said virtual surface is an approximation of said viewed

surface;

   rendering a rendered image of said virtual surface; and

   providing said rendered image to a user.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said endoscopic image is one of a series

of video images.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said virtual surface is planar.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said virtual surface is arranged in a

manner corresponding to said viewed surface.

5. (cancelled).

6. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein said approximation of said viewed surface

is based on volumetric scan data.

7. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein said approximation of said viewed surface is based on stereo imaging.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein a virtual viewing point is arranged in a manner generally corresponding to an endoscopic viewing point.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein a virtual viewing point is arranged in a manner generally corresponding to an actual viewing point of a user.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein a virtual viewing direction is directed in a manner generally corresponding to an actual viewing direction of a user.

11. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein a virtual viewing orientation is oriented in a manner generally corresponding to an actual viewing orientation of a user.

12. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said endoscopic image is mapped onto said virtual surface according to a mapping that adjusts for distortion.

13. (currently amended) An apparatus for displaying an endoscopic image, comprising:

an endoscope for capturing a captured image of a viewed surface;

a computer system in communication with said endoscope;

a monitor in communication with said computer system;

a processor which will:

create a virtual surface <u>based on said viewed surface</u> with

said captured image textured onto said virtual

surface, and

render a rendered image of said virtual surface from a virtual

viewing set,

whereby said monitor will display said rendered image; and

whereby a user is provided with said captured image as effectively modified in a

desirable way by said processor.

14. (new) A method for displaying an image, comprising:

determining a first viewing set representing a position of a scope relative to an

actual surface;

receiving an image of the actual surface obtained by the scope when in the

position represented by the first viewing set;

mapping the image of the actual surface onto a virtual surface representing the

actual surface;

determining a second viewing set representing a second position different from

the position represented by the first viewing set; and

rendering an image representing a view of the actual surface from the second

position based on the virtual surface and the second viewing set.

15. (new) The method of claim 14, further comprising displaying the image representing

a view of the actual surface from the second position on a display.

16. (new) The method of claim 14, wherein the first viewing set comprises a scope

viewing point, a scope viewing direction, and a scope orientation relative to the actual

surface.

17. (new) The method of claim 16, wherein the second viewing set comprises a virtual

viewing point, a virtual viewing direction, and a virtual orientation corresponding to a

second position relative to the actual surface.

18. (new) The method of claim 17, wherein the second position represents the position

of a user.

19. (new) The method of claim 14, wherein said virtual surface represents an

anatomical object.